

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16-26, 28, 29, 31 and 35-43 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 10, 11, 14, 17, 26, 29 and 35-37 being independent and having been amended herein.

In the Office Action dated February 28, 2006, Claims 1-31 and 35-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,182 (Nehab et al.). The claims have been amended herein to even further distinguish over Nehab et al.

Independent Claim 1 now recites that, inter alia, the image forming apparatus includes an output unit adapted to output the image on the recording medium based on data for output acquired by an acquisition unit. The image forming apparatus, which includes the output unit, sends the acquisition information and the layout information to an external apparatus. In Nehab et al., on the other hand, personal-news-profile 19 is stored in disk 5 of the host machine. Web printer 17 receives a personal news profile from the personal-news-profile 19. Web printer 17, however, does not send the personal-news-profile to any external apparatus. Thus, Nehab et al. is not believed to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Nor does Nehab et al. disclose or suggest corresponding features recited in independent Claims 10, 17 and 35.

Independent Claim 11 recites, inter alia, that a portion of the received layout information does not correspond to the function or state of an image forming apparatus and another portion of the received layout information corresponds to the function or state of the image forming apparatus, and that the former portion is changed in accordance with the function or state of the image forming apparatus. Applicant submits that the image forming apparatus is not arranged such that certain layout information is replaced by other layout information.

In Nehab et al., either the user-designated personal-news-profile or the default personal-news-profile is selected. A portion of the user-designated personal-news-profile is not changed. Accordingly, Nehab et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 11 or corresponding features recited in independent Claims 26 and 36.

Independent Claim 14 recites, inter alia, that the determination unit determines layout information in accordance with a function or state of the image forming apparatus if the print instruction is received without any layout information for the data. Applicant submits that in Nehab et al., the user must edit the personal-news-profile in accordance with the function or state of the image forming apparatus. Even the default personal-news-profile is not determined by the web printer 17, but is edited by the user.

Accordingly, Nehab et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 14, or corresponding features recited in independent Claims 29 and 39.

Accordingly, the independent claims are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 10, 11, 14, 17, 26, 29 and 35-37. The dependent claims are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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